

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-20 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-20 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Yasushi (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-338821); and Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yasushi in view of Kuan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030224797, hereinafter "Kuan").

With regard to the rejection of Claims 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §101, Claims 10 and 20 are amended to recite a computer readable medium, which is an article of manufacture. Accordingly, Claims 10 and 20 are in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §101.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Yasushi, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-108277, filed April 11, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a)(4), enclosed please find an English translation of this application, along with a statement that the translation of the priority document is accurate. It is respectfully submitted that the enclosed documents perfect the claim to priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-108277 under 35 U.S.C. §119. The filing date of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-108277, April 11, 2003, antedates the publication date of November 28, 2003 of Yasushi. Therefore, Yasushi does

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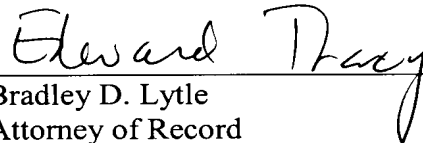
not qualify as prior art with respect to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). As all the rejections of record rely on Yasushi, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are traversed.

Since Applicant has not amended the claims in response to any substantive rejection on the merits, a further rejection of these claims based on newly cited prior art in the next communication **cannot properly be considered a Final Office Action**.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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